

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In the application of** : SPROAT, Martin  
**Serial No.** : 10/656,554  
**Filed** : September 5, 2003  
**For** : Improved Network Service Provider  
Architecture In Communications Network  
**Examiner** : NGUYEN, Steven H D  
**Art Unit** : 2416  
**Customer number** : 23644  
**Confirmation No.** : 8188  
**Attorney Docket No.** : 41319-94756

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF DRAWING INCONSISTANCY AND AMENDMENT**  
**UNDER RULE 312**

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the above-identified notice, and also with respect to a requested amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312, it is requested that the application be amended as follows: